

**For Website:**

*Lt. Governor Skillman celebrates the success of a small, minority woman-owned business in Lawrence County*

**Lt. Governor Becky Skillman**

**Remarks at Tri-Star Engineering in Bedford, Indiana**

**May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2009**

**Thank you, Mayor Girgis, for your kind words. I'm delighted to be home for this celebration, and ready to be out of the state house for a few hours.**

**It's always a pleasure to be with my fellow elected officials, Mayor Girgis, Congressman Buyer, Rep. Koch, Sen. Steele, the city and county officials as well as the economic development leaders and the many good friends we have with us here today. This is an exciting day for Bedford, Lawrence County and the entire Crane region.**

**We have here another Hoosier business that is succeeding. Tri-Star got off the ground when Priya Wharton, an engineer at Crane decided to try her hand at business. Not only did it get off the ground, I think you'll all agree, Tri Star Engineering is soaring! With locations in Washington, D.C., California and Virginia, Tri-Star is bringing first rate Hoosier services to the entire nation.**

**Priya, I want to thank you for your continued support of the people of Lawrence County, and for your continued support of Crane. We**

**are also proud of the contribution you're making to the warfighter, to keep our citizens safe and secure.**

**Even in these uncertain economic times, you are moving forward and giving a much-needed dose of optimism to our community and our economy. That's another reason why these celebrations are so important.**

**We're pleased that Tri-Star is part of Indiana's growing network of defense contractors. Lawrence County is one of the many places supported by the strong presence of Crane, so it's a great place to do business with the Department of Defense.**

**We need Tri-Stars all over the state. We need individuals with talent and vision to step out, take risk and move us forward. And I'm proud that Tri-Star is a certified Minority Woman-Owned Business. Not only are you setting an incredible example for small business, you're also inspiring Hoosier women to take that leap.**

**Small business owners are making up record numbers of Indiana's workforce. More than 600,000 Hoosiers are working for themselves today.**

**Our community and our state's economic health depends on the growth and success of the small businesses that add one or two jobs**

**a year, increasing revenue a few thousand dollars at a time, and it happens all over the state. We can look to Tri-Star for inspiration.**

**Tri-Star understands what other business leaders understand about our state's advantage. CEOs from across the country recently named Indiana the most business-friendly state in the Midwest, and one of the best in the country.**

**We all know we are in tough economic times, and that's an understatement. Due to global trends, we have seen changing financial conditions, tightening of credit markets, and hundreds of thousands of layoffs across the country.**

**But one thing hasn't changed. In a world of uncertainty, and an era of struggle, Indiana is STILL the best place to start or grow a business.**

**I want to thank Doug Kellams for all he's done for Bedford and Lawrence County. Doug saw an opportunity, and despite knowing it was a speculative move, he took a chance. He risked a lot to help all of us. It was a real leap of faith to purchase this building, but we know the results are something to celebrate.**

**Visteon was a symbol of a lot of things in Bedford and Lawrence County. It meant prosperity, and longevity – a company that had**

**stood the test of time and helped many families prosper. It gave an honest days pay for an honest days work to hundreds of our friends and neighbors.**

**Unfortunately, that changed. We were all devastated to see a pillar like Visteon fall. Good people lost their jobs, and a great industrial facility fell quiet and empty.**

**I'm proud of what this community has done in the face of such a challenge. You've fought to bring prosperity back home where it belongs. Today's celebration is another sign that we will win the war one battle at a time.**

**We have a lot to be thankful for, despite the challenges we face.**

**So, to Tri-Star, on behalf of a very grateful state and community, we thank you for your investment. And we look forward to watching your success continue to grow.**

**Congratulations!**